**BECE Past Questions & Answers – 2015 (English)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1**

Objective Test-45 minutes

**PART A-LEXIS AND STRUCTURE**

**SECTION A**

From the alternatives lettered A to D, choose the one which most suitably completes each sentence.

1. Ntim’s careless driving resulted …………… a fatal road accident.
A. in
B. to
C. into
D. with

2. Abibatu takes ………….. her mother in many ways.
A. by
B. on
C. up
D. after

3. Araba goes to school ………….. foot.
A. by
B. in
C. on
D. with

4. The doctor advised the patient to abstain …………. smoking
A. by
B. from
C. upon
D. with

5. The relationship …………. group A and group B is cordial
A. of
B. with
C. among
D. between

6. Edwin prefers fish ……………meat.
A. to
B. for
C. from
D. than

7. His neighbor complained that the radio was ………..loud.
A. far
B. too
C. much
D. enough

8. The white horse is ………..than the black one.
A. the faster
B. very faster
C. much the faster
D. very much faster

9. I …………him; then I changed my mind.
A. had told
B. have told
C. am telling
D. was going to tell

10. By the end of the day, I ………….the house.
A. shall paint
B. shall be painting
C. shall have painted
D. shall have been painting

11. You are a member of the society, …………..?
A. isn’t it
B. are you
C. aren’t you
D. weren’t you

12. Our captain is not a very reliable person, …………….?
A. is he
B. isn’t he
C. does he
D. doesn’t he

13. You have been to Lagos, ………………?
A. did you
B. have you
C. didn’t you
D. haven’t you

14. Joseph is the …………in the class.
A. cleverer
B. cleverest
C. more clever
D. very clever

15. The triplets love ……………very much
A. each other
B. themselves
C. theirselves
D. one another

16. …………….the watch is old, it is still working.
A. Since
B. Besides
C. Although
D. However

17. The students set …………..early on their journey.
A. up
B. in
C. out
D. about

**SECTION B**

Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.

18. If you are a true friend you will not disclose a secret.
A. give
B. show
C. display
D. reveal

19. As John waited for the interview, he was very nervous.
A. sad
B. afraid
C. alarmed
D. uneasy

20. Patricia was satisfied with the results of the examination.
A. pleased
B. convinced
C. pampered
D. encouraged

21. The attitude of the gateman was very hostile.
A. harsh
B. strange
C. abusive
D. unfriendly

22. It was not his intention to hurt his younger brother.
A. aim
B. decision
C. interest
D. ambition

**SECTION C**

In each of the following sentences a group of words has been underlined. Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one that best explains the underlined group of words.

23. Ibrahim registered for the course at the eleventh hour.
This means that Ibrahim registered
A. at eleven o’clock
B. a few hours before closing time
C. during eleven hours of registration
D. when it was almost too late

24. Bob lives within a stone’s throw of the Jubilee Park.
This means that Bob
A. travels on a stony road
B. lives in a hut in the park
C. lives very close to the park
D. often throws stone at the park

25. When James heard the sound of gun-shots, his hair stood on end.
This means that James
A. was worried
B. started crying
C. was frightened
D. became inactive

26. Mary has gone to cheer up her friend
This means that Mary has gone to
A. shout at her
B. give her gifts
C. tell her stories
D. make her happy

27. The teacher’s abrupt question threw the pupil off balance.
This means that the pupil was
A. hurt
B. annoyed
C. worried
D. confused.

SECTION D
From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence.

28. While the majority voted for a change, the …………were against any change.
A. rivals
B. members
C. minority
D. opposition

29. Imported rice is expensive these days
A. free
B. cheap
C. tasty
D. scarce

30. The student was condemned for his poor work
A. cheered
B. praised
C. rewarded
D. recommended

31. Although he had applied for a permanent post, he was only given a ………one.
A. useful
B. boring
C. labouring
D. temporary

32. Some people pay much attention to their physical needs.
A. basic
B. moral
C. financial
D. spiritual

**LITERATURE**

From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that correctly answers each question or completes the sentence.

33. A comedy is a play that
A. ends sadly
B. ends happily
C. condemns society
D. preaches honesty

34. The main female character in a play is the …………..
A. hero
B. chorus
C. heroine
D. persona
35. Expressions that appeal to the senses are collectively called ………..
A. irony
B. devices
C. pictures
D. imagery

36. The purpose of a comic relief is to ……………
A. reduce tension
B. teach a moral lesson
C. set a moral standard
D. compound a character’s problems

37. A play is better enjoyed when ………..
A. acted
B. read
C. discussed
D. memorised

38. A narrative poem usually ……………
A. praises actions
B. tells a story
C. mourns the dead
D. condemns actions

Read the following extract below and answer Questions 39 and 40.

So fair art thou my bonnie lass
So deep in luve am I
And I will luve thee still my dear
Till all the sea gang dry

39. The last line is a/an ………..
A. litotes
B. hyperbole
C. euphemism
D. understatement

40. The rhyme scheme of the stanza is ………….
A. abcd
B. abca
C. abcb
D. abba

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1**

**OBJECTIVE TEST-SOLUTIONS**

1. A. in
2. D. after
3. C. on
4. B. from
5. D. between
6. A. to
7. B. too
8. D. very much faster
9. D. was going to tell
10. C. shall have painted
11. C. aren’t you
12. A. is he
13. D. haven’t you
14. B. cleverest
15. B. themselves
16. C. Although
17. C. out
18. D. reveal
19. D. uneasy
20. A. pleased
21. D. unfriendly
22. A. aim
23. D. when it was almost too late
24. C. lives very close to the park
25. C. was frightened
26. D. make her happy
27. D. confused
28. C. minority
29. B. cheap
30. B. praised
31. D. temporary
32. D. spiritual
33. B. ends happily
34. C. heroine
35. D. imagery
36. A. reduce tension
37. A. acted
38. B. tells a story
39. B. hyperbole
40. C. abcb

**JUNE 2015
ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2
1 hour**

Answer two questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B.
Your composition should be about 250 words long.

PART A
ESSAY WRITING
[30 MARKS]

Answer one question only from this part

1. You have won a scholarship to study abroad. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her at least two things that you will miss away.

2. Write an article for publication in your school magazine suggesting at least two ways by which cheating in the BECE can be stopped.

3. Write a story that ends, this is why our friendship came to an end.

PART B
COMPREHENSION
[30 marks]

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow

In the Western world, the family is simply made up of the husband, wife and children. This is called the nuclear family. In Africa, the family includes relatives from both the maternal and paternal sides. This is known as the extended family.
This relationship binds every member whose origin can be traced to the same ancestor. This has developed into such complex groups as clans among the Akans and kinship relations in other parts of Ghana and Africa.
Wherever the extended family is practiced, its benefits seem greater than its disadvantages. In Ghana, at the small community level, it brings unity among people. They share everything among themselves – wealth or problems. The system even binds and caters for others who may be separated by social factors such as marriage.
However, it often makes people look up to others for help when they could solve problems themselves. It also makes some members become lazy. In the long run the only well-to-do person in the family is made to shoulder the responsibilities of more people than he can really cope with.
Now, the question to ask is, has the extended family system any chance of continuing when the nuclear family is now gaining so much ground? Whether the extended family will continue or die out will depend on how strong the nuclear family becomes.

(a) What does the word ‘family’ mean to:
(i) the people in the Western world?
(ii) the African?

(b) What links people in the extended family system?

(c) Mention two advantages of the extended family system.

(d) Give two reasons why you would support the nuclear family system.

(e) Explain the following expressions in your own words.
(i) look up to
(ii) made to shoulder
(iii) gaining so much ground

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:
(i) binds;
(ii) origin;
(iii) caters for;
(iv) in the long run;
(v) cope with.

**JUNE 2015 (2nd Sitting)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2
1 hour**

Answer two questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B.
Your composition should be about 250 words long.

PART A
ESSAY WRITING
[30 MARKS]

Answer one question only from this part

1. Write a letter to the Presiding Member of your district assembly telling him or her about two of the achievements of your community over the last five years and the plans for the future.

2. Your friend has informed you that his or her uncle has decided not to look after him or her in school anymore. Write to your friend’s uncle giving him at least two reasons why he should change his mind.

3. Write arguments for or against the topic: It is more advantageous to live in the village than in the city.

PART B
COMPREHENSION
[30 marks]

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow

The dry season was very long. The people waited anxiously for the rains to plant their seeds. The rain clouds that appeared occasionally were deceptive. To while away the time, they wove baskets and kente; others carved stools or sat under trees, playing games and drinking palm wine.

Sentu and his family were on the verge of starvation. They had just one cassava farm left to feed on. The maize in the barn was all gone. In fact, they had started eating the seed maize. Sentu kept wondering how he would get seeds to plant when the rainy season eventually started. He went to inspect the traps he had set for the rodents that had been feasting on the cassava. If the traps caught any animals, it would be a double blessing; he would get meat and reduce the population of ‘his enemies’, the pests. While inspecting his traps, he saw some smoke. He dashed towards it. He tried to put out the fire but could not. He shouted for help. In a twinkling of an eye, the whole farm had been destroyed. Sentu wept uncontrollably.

When he reached the village, his neighbours rushed to his house to console him. They gave him foodstuff and promised to help him get back on his feet. Tutu, the palm-wine tapper, visited Sentu that evening. He was accompanied by two elderly and highly respected men in the village. Their task was simple. Tutu had asked them to apologise to Sentu on his behalf. It was the fire from Tutu’s torch that had caused the havoc and brought such agony to Sentu’s family. What could Sentu do or say?

(a) (i) What was the main occupation of the people?
(ii) State two other things they did that could earn them an income.

(b) (i) What does ‘pests’ refer to?
(ii) Why did the writer refer to the pests as ‘his enemies’?

(c) (i) How did Sentu feel when his farm was burnt?
(ii) Why did he feel that way?

(d) For what two reasons did Tutu choose the elderly and highly respected men to accompany him to visit Sentu?

(e) Explain the following expressions in your own words.
(i) a double blessing
(ii) wept uncontrollably
(iii) get back on his feet

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:
(i) anxiously;
(ii) deceptive;
(iii) dashed;
(iv) mission;
(v) agony.

### June 2015 (First Sitting)ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2PART B – COMPREHENSIONSOLUTIONS

4.
(a) What the word ‘family’ means to:
(i) the people in the Western world?
To the people in the Western world, family is simply husband, wife and children.
(ii) the African?
To the African, family refers to relatives from both maternal and paternal sides.
(b) What links people in the extended family system
What links people in the extended family is their origin that can be traced to the same ancestor.
(c) Two advantages of the extended family system.
(i) It brings unity among people.
(ii) It caters for those separated by social factors.
(iii) Its members share everything among themselves. (any two)

(d) Two reasons why you would support the nuclear family system.
Answers to this question may vary. Any appropriate response is acceptable.
(e) Explanation of the following expressions.
(i) look up to : think highly of, admire, hold in high regard, view in high respect, etc
(ii) made to shoulder : made to bear, made to take on, etc
(iii) gaining so much ground : becoming more important, becoming more popular, advancing steadily, winning massive acceptance, etc.

(f) Other word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:
(i) binds – connects, links
(ii) origin – ancestry, roots, lineage, family, family tree, descent
(iii) caters for – provides for, help
(iv) in the long run – in the end, eventually, at the end of the day, ultimately
(v) cope with – handle, face, manage

### June 2015 (Second Sitting)ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2PART B – COMPREHENSIONSOLUTIONS4.(a) (i) The main occupation of the peopleFarming was the main occupation of the people.

(ii) Two other things they did that could earn them an income.
Weaving kente and baskets
Carving stools

(b) (i) What ‘pests’ refer to.
Pests refer to harmful animals that destroy crops by feeding on them..

(ii) Why the writer refers to the pests as ‘his enemies’
Sentu referred to the pests as “his enemies” because the pests feasted on his cassava.

(c) (i) How Sentu felt when his farm was burnt.
Sentu felt very sad / heartbroken / downcast / despondent etc.

(ii) Why he felt that way.
He felt that way because his farm was all that he and his family had to live on.

(d) Two reasons why Tutu chose the elderly and highly respected men to accompany him to visit Sentu
(i) To help him apologise to Sentu
(ii) Their presence will prevent Sentu from reacting violently after knowing the cause of the fire.

(e) Explanation of the following expressions.
(i) a double blessing : two good things happening at the same time
(ii) wept uncontrollably : cried bitterly, cried continuously
(iii) get back on his feet : start anew, spring back, start farming again, get in shape

(f) Another word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:
(i) anxiously – earnestly, nervously, restlessly, apprehensively
(ii) deceptive – misleading, deceiving
(iii) dashed – rushed, ran quickly, darted, hurried
(iv) mission – task, duty, assignment, purpose for being there
(v) agony – misery, pain, suffering, woe, distress